

# Gospel Power



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)*

*The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.*

**Anderson  
church of Christ**  
5900 Highway 207  
Anderson, Alabama

**Visit Us On The Web**  
Anderson-church.org

## **Men Priviledged To Serve:**

Sunday, June 19th:

### *Bible Classes*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Bible Reading ..... (1 Peter 3:1-12)

..... Rodney McCrary

Prayer

..... Andrew Gatlin

### *Morning Worship*

Song Leader

..... Ronnie Phillips

Prayer

..... Jimmy Glass

Lord's Supper

Presiding ..... Michael Clemmons

Assisting ..... Eddie J. Hammond

Serving ..... Eddie L. Hammond

..... Mark McCrary

..... James McConnell

..... Curtis Mosley

Closing Prayer

..... Claus Martel

### *Evening Worship*

Song Leader

..... Phil Pressnell

Bible Reading ..... (1 Peter 3:13-22)

..... Mike Rogers

Prayer

..... Larry White

Lord's Supper

..... Michael Clemmons

..... Eddie J. Hammond

Closing Prayer

..... Brian Word

Volume XII

June 19, 2005

No. 25

## *"Company of the Committed"*

**Harry Pickup, Jr.**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a radical influence that is intended to create radical reactions and radical changes.

Radical influences produce radical reactions. The Gospel of Jesus Christ qualifies as a "radical influence," under that assertion. Men, who once were part of a mob who demanded the death of innocent Jesus, came to believe the very truth for which they accused and condemned Him. Eventually they went from that radical reaction to committing their hope for eternal life in Him. These facts are reported in Acts chapters 2-4.

Some of this believing company were publicly teaching the people, "declaring in Jesus the resurrection," when authorities sought to cancel their apostolic commission. They were imprisoned overnight, intensely interrogated, and severely threatened if they continued preaching in Jesus' name. Clearly they had only two options: "hearken unto you" or "unto God." As believers their only viable choice was to "hearken unto God." But first "they came into their own company and reported all" that had been said unto them. They involved the entire company of believers in their decision. As a company of "common faith" they also were of "one heart and soul." In "one accord" this "company" called upon God in whom they trusted for help. Their common prayer informs us of the basic reasons for trusting in God (Acts 4:31).

The inspired historian tells us the following facts:

- 1) They spoke to Him as "Lord," their "Master." They viewed themselves as His servants -- His right being to command, their duty to obey.

- 2) "They believe Him to be both Creator and Savior." (It is important to note how closely and often creation and salvation are connected in scripture).
- 3) They accepted it as a fact that their Lord ruled and acted in time on behalf of His creatures. They expressly acknowledge that His "counsel" had "come to pass." Furthermore, they believe in His favorable providence to their appeal for help.
- 4) They believed that His divine purpose was carried out through his "anointed" Son, Jesus. The One who was slain and vindicated as Savior; the One in whom they had committed their very lives to in the obedience of faith.

Together, their "company" decisively decided to continue "to speak Thy word with all boldness." Too much was at stake to yield to the official threats -- their own salvation as well as that of many others. This company, united in mind, purpose, being and living, depended upon God and supported each other under extreme conditions by sharing their "possessions," "according as anyone had need."

Since the recording of these facts, this event has both informed and inspired subsequent believers in how to react under similar circumstances. It appears to be true that in our present circumstances that "threats" to "company commitment" are not as radical and our reactions are neither as radical. Evidences of our commitment are different. We do not react as radically as they did.

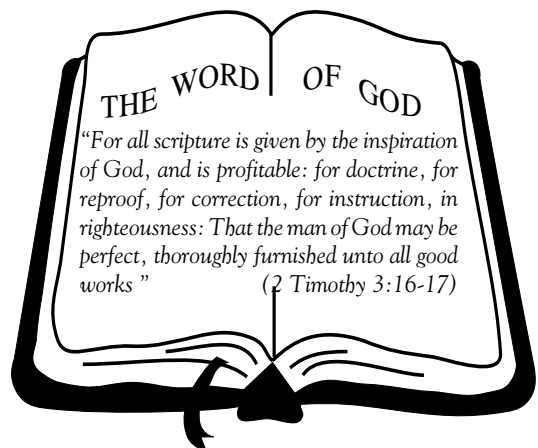
1. We tend to isolate our speaking forth "the word of boldness" to our places of assembly. It is here that we preach truth and sometimes contrast it with present error. In reality we are taught to be "lights in the world" -- the culture in which we are active participants. The word of salvation should be preached in our meeting houses, though not isolated to the place. The nature of our present circumstances seriously limits the possibility of converting men to God and His purpose when our preaching is isolated to a particular place.

2. We isolate our speaking forth "the word with boldness" to a very few hours of time. The reality is that we are taught to be "living sacrifices...to God." While how a "company of committed ones" lives can be no substitute for "preaching the word," such can be the means to incline, or disincline, men "in the hearing" of the word. This is taught in many passages (see, 1 Peter 3:1; Titus 2:5). While preaching and teaching in our assemblies are commendable, much of both is to the "company of the committed" rather than to the uncommitted who seldom assemble with us.

3. When speaking forth "the word with boldness," we tend to divide the company into two isolated groups: performers and payers. In reality each Christian is a "minister" (servant) with a service to offer. Though scripture does teach that some, "prophesy, teach, and exhort," "give, rule, and show mercy" (Romans 12:6-8), it also teaches that each believer has a gift (1 Peter 4:10), a responsibility to fulfill; something other than being a "ticket holder" at a religious performance.

Because the gospel is a radical influence, a "company of committed ones" should react radically in any age. Remember, we are committed to God and His purpose and to oppose "the god of this world."

-via *Stanley Avenue Bulletin*, Andalusia, Alabama.



# Conformed To Christ

Frank Himmel

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren” (Romans 8:29). God predetermined several things relative to our salvation. This text, part of the “all things work together” paragraph, identifies one of them: conformity to Christ.

We conform to Christ in the **new birth**. Baptism or immersion is a likeness of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection on our behalf (Romans 6:4-11). We are freed from sin when we obey that form or mold of teaching (vss. 17-18).

We are to conform to Christ in our daily **life**. “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior” (1 Peter 2: 14-15). “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, for you to follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

Paul desired to be conformed to Jesus' **death** (Philippians 3:10). That does not necessarily refer to the means of His death, although it may. The manner in which Jesus conducted himself in death - controlling Himself, submitting to the Father's will, forgiving others, etc. - is the way we must conduct ourselves, in life or death.

If we conform to Christ in the new birth, life, and in death, we will be conformed to Him in the **resurrection**. He “will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:21).

God's plan glorifies Christ. Are you honoring Him by conforming to Him?

-via *The Manslick Road Speaker*, Louisville, Kentucky



## Vacation Bible School

July 11-15 – 10:00 a.m.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Adult Class Speaker</u>
Monday	Bobby Robinson
Tuesday	Matt Oglesby
Wednesday	Bobby Graham
Thursday	Mark White
Friday	Oscar Miles

There will be classes for ages:  
Nursery through Adult.

**Sunday, July 10**

9:45 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Daniel Bailey, Speaking

Anderson church of Christ

Highway 207 South  
Anderson, Alabam

## News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Myrtie Williams* continues in the Glenwood Rehabilitation Center in Florence and will be coming home on Thursday ... *Claus Martel* spent a couple of days in the Crestwood Hospital in Huntsville... *Cindy Mosley and Sonya Blackburn's mother, F. A. Haney* had three stints inserted on Monday, but returned to the Huntsville Hospital with blood clots in her lungs. Plans are for her to come home around the middle of the week... *James McConnell's mother, Dela Mae McConnell*, is the ECM hospital in Florence... *Jerry Dickey's father, David Dickey*, was dismissed from the hospital... *Curtis Cooper* finished his chemo treatments last week ... *Valerie Stewart's grandmother, Ollie Bell Roch-*

*elle*, was released from Life Care in Columbia on Tuesday... **Tisha Thomas' mother, Shelia Johnson**, is continuing her chemo treatments ... **Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kizaire**, is in the hospital in Fayette ... **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, is at home ... **Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell**, is at home ... **Leota Springer's husband, Bob Springer**, is taking kidney dialysis at home ... **Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart**, is awaiting a kidney transplant ... **Mattie Blanche Word** is at home... **Shannon Johnson**, continues at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski

**ELDERS MEETING:** The elders will be meeting this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at the building.

**OUT OF TOWN:** **Jerry Best** is in Michigan this week on vacation.

**COMMUNICATION GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for group 3 to meet following our service. If you are in group 3, plan to meet.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The **Midway church** in Green Hill is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with **Buc Chumbley of Athens** preaching. The services will begin Monday through Friday at 7:00 p.m...The **Centerview church** in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m. **Charles Littrell of Decatur** will be the speaker...The **Russellville church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today with **David Hatrtzell of Auburn** preaching. The meeting will continue through Friday with services at 7:00 p.m....The **Isbell church** in Russellville is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. **Bryan Moody of Birmingham** will be the speaker.

**THE RECORD:** *For the week of June 12th*

**Sunday:** Bible Classes ..... 109  
 Morning Worship ..... 128  
 Evening Worship ..... 81

**Wednesday:**  
 Bible Classes ..... 80

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**  
 Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
 Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Elders**  
 Michael Clemmons ..... (256) 247-0836  
 Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391  
 Monroe Pressnell ..... (256) 232-0780

**Deacons**  
 Jimmy Glass ..... (256) 247-0571  
 Mark McIntyre ..... (256) 233-1953  
 Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
 Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
 Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988  
 Brian Word ..... (256) 229-5823

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